

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following:

Upon transferring, collecting and disposing of a material, all components of apparatus 100 can be cleaned by utilizing integral cleaning fluid chamber 108. With reference now to FIG. 2, material interface 114 is removed from inlet 110 and material transfer hose 102 is inserted into an inlet of cleaning fluid chamber 108. A suitable cleaning fluid is then poured into the inlet of cleaning fluid chamber 108 and the power source activated. The suction generated by vacuum source 106 draws the cleaning fluid through material transfer hose 102 and into material collection chamber 104 to clean the same. After opening valve 132, and as the cleaning fluid flows out of material collection chamber 104 through outlet 118 to drain 136, disposal line 130 is also cleaned as the cleaning fluid passes therethrough. When the supply of cleaning fluid within cleaning fluid chamber 108 has been exhausted, the apparatus is deactivated or the cleaning step is repeated with water or other cleaning fluids, as often as needed or desirable. Following this step, the apparatus of the present invention not only transfers, collects and disposes of material with minimal risk to the healthcare worker and without interruption, it also "self-cleans" all components of the apparatus by supplying a cleaning fluid to an integrated cleaning fluid chamber positioned upstream of the material transfer hose. It should be noted that

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in the medical, dental or surgical environment, the material interface is
cleaned and sterilized in an autoclave or by other appropriate means.